

THE A.P.R.O. BULLETIN

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TUCSON, ARIZONA — SEPTEMBER, 1961

DISC UPSETS TRUCK

Red Object at Baltimore

At 4:50 a.m. on the third of June 1961, Robert Briele of WFBR, Baltimore, made the following sighting: A bright red flashing light the apparent size of a walnut held at arm's length appeared about a half mile away at 500 feet altitude and descending. At this distance its speed would have been about 200 mph in an "effortless flight pattern," making no sound. It descended behind a ridge in northern Baltimore and was lost to sight. This light, which flickered at a rate faster than a normal airplane light without going clear out on the dim part of the cycle, had no discernible shape. It passed west to east of Belvidere avenue in northern Baltimore. Friendship airport reported no flight in the area at that time.

On June 10, Mr. Griffin, his wife and mother-in-law, saw a flashing light moving slowly from SW toward them at Hillen and Belvadere avenue at 9:15 p.m. It was neither dark nor light—just twilight — as the red light traveled across the sky. It stopped overhead for about 10 second, then took off very fast toward the NW. No sound accompanied the light. It did not go out, merely dimmed and brightened. About "the size of a basketball" with no shape behind it. Altitude guessed at 2,000 to 5,000 feet.

Another similar sighting took place at 9:15 p.m. on the same evening. Mrs. Calegere at Lake Ave. and Chinquapia Parkway saw a large, bright red blinking light "the size of a basketball" coming out of the SE at very high speed. It appeared to fall to the earth between her location and the Stadium, which is SE of her point of observation. Nothing was reported falling or having been found in that area.

At 9:05 p.m. on the evening of 16 June, Mr. Jack Ewald and his six-year-old daughter saw a very bright red light varying from bright to dim proceeding at a "moderate" speed from W to E along Taylor Ave.-Hillen Road just north of Baltimore and south of Towson. Nothing was seen behind the light and

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Editorial...

This issue of the Bulletin is being edited 6 months late, but will be followed by the November issue containing full details of the September-October 1961 U. S. saucer "flap," plus another installment of the Reverend Gill New Guinea sightings of 1959.

Part of the delay in Bulletin issues has been a matter of personal problems and health and a good share of the delay is due to work connected with the Director's book.

A few letters to this office (3 to be exact) were from members concerned with the title of the Director's book. It was titled "The Great Flying Saucer Hoax" because a hoax has been perpetrated, both purposely and inadvertently, in regard to the UFO over the past 15 years. The contents of the book bear out this contention.

Because publishers have turned a cold shoulder to manuscripts dealing with UFO in the past 5 years, the book was subsidized via private funds made available to the Director and Mr. Lorenzen by friends and APRO members. These funds must be reimbursed as soon as possible and we therefore ask the members to do all they can to promote sales.

Some members have not yet ordered and we urge them to do so while copies are still available through Mrs. Lorenzen at \$3.95—a 10% discount from the regular price of \$4.45. In an effort to reimburse investors, the Lorenzens have made available at their address a substantial number of books. When all of them are sold, there will be sufficient funds to reimburse the investors. Please urge your friends and fellow UFO researchers to order. All orders and remittances should be sent to C. E. Lorenzen, 4145 E. Desert Place, Tucson, Ariz.

To date, interest in the book has been most satisfactory. Modesty and lack of space prevents reproduction here of comments and reviews, but they have been good.

APRO publication schedules will be brought up to date but should demands

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By Horacio Gonzales

Mr. Adolfo Paolini Pisani, government topographer, employed in the Executive Service of the State of Merida, Venezuela, was driving his jeep along the Andean highway leading from the town of La Victoria to El Vigia in the state of Merida one day in January 1961.

The sky was clear with very little or no clouds. He had just crossed over the mountain from La Victoria and could see the level part of the highway stretching in front of him toward El Vigia as well as portions of the sky to his right and also to his left.

He became aware of a truck which approached from behind and blew its horn in order to pass the jeep. Mr. Paolini Pisani pulled off to the extreme right of the road and the truck passed on towards the front.

In this position both vehicles continued for a few minutes when, suddenly like a bolt from the blue, a brilliant object in the shape of a metallic disk, looking as though made from polished blue steel, swooped down from the sky at incredible speed and crossed perilously close over the front end (hood) of the truck.

It then rose immediately in soaring flight at the same fantastic speed and was lost to sight in space in a matter of seconds in the opposite side of the sky. When the discoidal object rose into the air above the hood of the truck, the vehicle also rose a few feet into the air and overturned in the direction taken by the object and fortunately, into a sand-bank at the side of the road with its four wheels upturned in the air.

Controlling the fear and astonishment which seized him, Mr. Paolini Pisani stopped the jeep and rushed to assist the occupants of the truck. Luckily, the driver was the only occupant and escaped with only a few scratches, bumps, minor cuts and nervous shock. They then both went in search of other people to help right the truck and get it back into operation.

The details of this case were kept confidential by the national guard and

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Editor and Director

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Coral E. Lorenzen International Director and Editor
A. E. Brown, B.S.E.E. Director of Research
L. J. Lorenzen Director of Public Relations
Lesli Jaen Secretary
John T. Hopf Photographic Consultant
Oliver Dean Photographic Consultant

SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES

(The following listed individuals participate in planning and policy-making as Staff Members, in addition to coordinating investigative efforts in the areas indicated following their names.)

Dr. Olavo T. Fontes, M.D. Brazil
K. Gosta Rehn Sweden
Graham Conway Eastern Canada
Idame Burati France
Horacio Gonzales Gauteaume

Venezuela

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SPECIAL CONSULTANT

Prof. Charles Maney,—Physics

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Editorial...

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on the Director's time due to the book become too heavy, publication schedules could suffer. We can only predict this possibility and ask the members at large to understand.

In the past we have had difficulty in satisfying all requests for information pertaining to UFO which emanate from the public at large—APRO is not a corporation or profit-making organization. It exists solely for the benefit of the members. The Bulletin is the means by which each APRO member receives the results of investigation and research of the whole member body. Members of the staff have generously given of their time and talents without remuneration, for a cause. We therefore ask the general membership to consider this before making demands on the staff. We do the best we can under the circumstances with what we have available.

Again we urge members to attempt to push sales of the Director's book through direct sales at the above address.

A Re-Examination of The Simonton Case

The May issue of the Bulletin documented the claims of Eagle River, Wisconsin chicken farmer Joe Simonton and the case could not be closed in APRO files because of certain details and what appeared to be inconsistencies.

One of these inconsistencies concerned the presence of an apparent cooking unit aboard the purported craft. It occurred that any space aboard a real, honest-to-goodness reconnaissance craft would be utilized for necessary equipment. Nourishment, even for long trips, could be more efficiently provided via a storage unit rather than cooking unit and food storage and preparation units. All we need to do to more thoroughly understand this is to project what would be practical along such lines of reasoning.

Since the May Bulletin was issued we have had the pleasure of meeting and talking with Judge Carter of Eagle River who did much of the initial investigation and procured one of the "pancakes" or "cookies" for NICAP to analyze. As most of us know, the only analysis performed was under the auspices of J. Allen Hynek of N.W.U. who is consulting astrophysicist for WADC at Dayton, Ohio. It was learned that the objects contained salt, hydrogenated oil (such as any cooking oil) and corn meal or flour.

We must, at this juncture, because of certain recent developments, consider the possibility that Simonton did see some sort of craft, and perhaps some creatures, but that the pancakes and cooking unit were additions to make the story more believable. Certainly the "pancake" can be duplicated.

In his conversation with Judge Carter, Dr. Hynek inferred that Simonton was telling the truth, and the case was one of those incidents which are in a "class" by themselves.

The statements are quite revealing insofar as they say nothing really. Simonton could have been telling the truth—as he saw it. Also, the observation that the Simonton case is in a class by itself is not an endorsement of its authenticity.

Upon hearing from Carter that a pancake was sent to NICAP for analysis, Hynek reportedly responded that Carter wouldn't hear any more from them on the matter. Strangely enough the latter is true. We do not report this for any other reason than to report the facts. We are curious, however, concerning Hynek's prediction and upon what it was based.

The most recent information to come to our attention concerning the Simonton case we will quote directly from member Cecile Hess of Rhinelander. It is self-explanatory:

"Two weeks ago last night (about 28 Feb.) Harry Pride, an Eagle River real estate broker, came and sat down next to me in the lounge during our coffee break, and asked me what I thought of their advertising stunt. It turned out that he was referring to the Simonton affair. He then proceeded to tell me that he and some friends got Joe drunk and then hypnotized him. He said they had him tell the story 29 times while under hypnosis.

"I called up Ray Palmer (Editor, "Flying Saucers," Amherst, Wis.) that week and asked him what he thought about it. He told me that he thought Joe had a psychic experience; that possibly they enlarged on it. He also said that if the hypnotic part of the story was true, that those who did it may have thought they were doing their patriotic duty; as much as to say that someone had approached them and given them the idea, possibly hinting to them that they might find a use for it in their business; in this case the promotion of Treasure Island, an imitation in miniature of Disneyland if it ever gets underway. Incidentally, they built a little cabin on this amusement ground where Joe (Simonton) is going to sit and tell his story. I met Joe last August at Judge Carter's summer home. If I ever saw a sincere and honest man it was him. A person had to understand a bit about hypnotism to realize how this could be, and I am one of those who do know the possibilities inherent in it.

"A week ago Harry Pride denied his original story, said Joe suffered from hallucinations and they just used hypnosis to make him tell the story the same each time. I tried to get more out of him last night, but he wasn't talking." Unquote.

Considering the many strange and somewhat silly aspects of the Simonton case, the above theory about the incident is not unreasonable. All UFO researchers have encountered, at some time or other, those unscrupulous individuals who will take advantage of a sighting "flap" to promote something besides saucers.

Unless more pertinent information which will clarify this case comes to hand this is doubtless the last this Bulletin will carry on the subject.

Some notes which lend some credence to the Pride claims are the following: Joe Simonton at the time of the sight-

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Disc . . .*(Continued from page 1)*

also by Mr. Paolini Pisani who did not wish to receive any newspaper publicity because he thinks that people might think him crazy or guilty of inventing fantastic tales. He said that the object raised a cloud of dust as it passed over the truck and that it definitely was not a plane, (jet or otherwise) rocket, helicopter, meteor or any other known apparatus.

In spite of his aversion to publicity however, the incident preyed on his mind and he revealed the details to his cousin Dr. C. E. Paolini Pisani and also to Dr. Franco Puppio Leon, both well known and respected Caracas lawyers. These professional men, relatives of Adolfo, and naturally impressed by the frightened and nervous state of the topographer, the sinister and potentially dangerous aspects of the incident, and knowing of my interest and activities with respect to the UFO problem here, decided to let me know what transpired and to send this report to investigation centers.

Blue Flash Goes "Spat"

Edgar Hindman of Greer, S. C., and a fishing companion, Rev. Clark, were heading for a fishing spot at 5:05 a.m. on 25 September 1961 when a blue flash lit up the cab of their pickup truck as they traveled on Arlington road near Greenville.

They said the tremendous flash appeared to originate at about 45 degrees elevation in the NE and made a queer noise that sounded like "spat." A city employee later corroborated the story but said he observed the object with a tapering tail as it descended below the horizon.

The Weather Bureau had not seen it, could not explain it, nor could Municipal Airport Control Tower at Greenville.

Blast, Object, in East Texas

Residents of Tyler, Longview, Sulphur Springs and Marshall, Texas, reported a strange flaming object in the sky on the night of 30 May 1961. John R. Peavy of Tyler saw a "long, flaming object, bright yellow flames on the leading edge, and orange in the rear, falling in the sky east of Tyler. It was visible for only a few seconds and about 2 or 3 minutes later an unexplained blast was heard at Tyler. Authorities (whoever they are) have not located the scene of the objects' landing, if it did land—or crash.

Simonton . . .*(Continued from page 2)*

ing had been living alone for some time, his wife being in Chicago. After the case had gained some attention and interest in it was dying out, one newspaper inferred that Simonton's chickens were ill and that he (Simonton) claimed it happened since the UFO incident.

One reliable observer and investigator says, however, that the symptoms exhibited by the chickens are those of a dietary deficiency which they had showed at the time of the purported incident. Dead chickens layed about the farmyard and Simonton had not bothered to bury them. Some individuals in the Eagle River area also claim Simonton had attended UFO meetings prior to his sighting although this has not been verified.

Although Judge Carter does not believe Mr. Pride is sufficiently familiar with hypnosis to have perpetrated a hoax via hypnotic suggestion, from the information APRO has gathered, we must recognize all indications that Simonton is basically a simple, honest man and would make a good subject.

Red Object . . .*(Continued from page 1)*

when it passed nearly overhead it appeared to be about ½ city block away and very low. No sound. When it disappeared it looked as if it fell to earth about a block away. Area searched, nothing found.

After collecting these sightings in addition to his own observation, Briele made a point of observing passing airplanes for three nights in a row, found that no light on any plane passing him showed bright because of the twilight and lack of total darkness. Only 4 or 5 of the brightest stars were barely noticeable, and the nights were cloudless. In the last report Mrs. Ewald stated that the light was as big as the usual red lens of a traffic light as it approached her.

Ball of Fire at Cincinnati

Robert Boston and Price Hill of Cincinnati, Ohio, reported seeing a round ball of fire proceeding from NE to SW at a high rate of speed at 9:30 p.m. on 3 July 1961. Sighting later confirmed by Mr. and Mrs. Foster Callaghan. No sound.

Pair of Meteors?

A large number of residents of the SW U. S. observed a flaming sky object

on 9 September 1961. The "object" was reported by a pilot who claimed he saw "two very bright meteorites" moving from SW to NE. A representative of the Weather Bureau passed the sighting on to the FAA as one object.

Observers from Houston, Texas to Ft. Worth, Texas, and as far north as Topeka, Kansas, reported only one object.

The Flight Control Tower at Dallas Love Field reported the object caused the sonic boom as it hit the thick layers of the atmosphere, then hit the earth and exploded. One report said the object crashed near Paris, in north Texas near the Red River.

Randolph AFB at San Antonio said object was a meteorite which fell to earth near Texarkana, Texas. A Randolph spokesman said the object was still burning on the ground one hour later. This is one of those reports which automatically raises a few questions:

1. If the pilot said two meteorites, why did the weather bureau stipulate only one?

2. If the Weather Bureau stipulated one because meteors don't travel in pairs, why did not those officials therefore assume the objects were not meteors?

3. Meteors "dig in" when they crash—at least the main body buries itself in the earth. If the object breaks up, fragments may scatter—but does one see the residue burning one hour later?

The main puzzle here seems to be the question as to how many objects were actually seen and if the crash represented two different objects. Also we might question whether or not this whole mixup might be due to faulty or sloppy reporting. Probably a combination of both.

Arrow-Shaped UFO In California

At 1:30 p.m. Sunday, 30 July 1961, members of Betty Vroman family and neighbors of San Bernardino observed an object like "wide arrow point" with a "cylindrical shaft jutting vertically."

"It must have been enormously long, possibly twice as long as the house," Mrs. Vroman said. "The center part was a shaft or cylinder and the bottom part seemed to flare out into a grey or silver-colored point. The base turned, tilted and looked red and the object seemed to hover or hang in the sky, then it went straight up, terrifically high. We observed it close to a half hour. There was no fire or flame." Mrs. Vroman observed. The object disappeared in the east in the direction of Beaumont and Banning.

Another Venusian Contact

A different slant on an old story (a la Adamski) has come to us via reporter House's column "On the House" in the Green Bay (Wisconsin) Press-Gazette for 26 June 1959.

It seems House was on a jaunt somewhere near the shore of Lake Huron, stopped at a gas station and the proprietor offered him a cup of java, whereupon he began to talk about a flying saucer which frequently landed on a small island about 100 yards off the shoreline. The gas station operator's wife and son readily confirmed the story which goes like this:

"They look like you or me, speak good English, although in a "sing-song" manner. They are tall, strong and live for hundreds of years, "much advanced in technology" and keep equipment in their aircraft which would amaze an earth scientist by its perfection and material—however, I am not permitted to reveal what these instruments are."

In answer to a query from House concerning their origin, the contractor said: "These particular ones come from Venus and have friends on earth whom they visit with and who have been picked by a method known only to them. Sceptics are avoided."

The man also said they are here to spread "everlasting peace" and have not made their objectives known to everyone because man is not ready to accept them or their word. They are vitally interested in man's plans for space because "anything which happens on one planet must surely affect all planets."

Further, the friend of the Venusians claims, his contact has a name which he is not permitted to tell—is so superior to men it is not proper to call him "friend."

There are about 25 occupants aboard this craft, although the station operator only talks to one of them. Both the man's wife and son confirmed that they had observed their husband and father on the island as the brightly-lighted UFO landed and disgorged men in "shining clothes," many times.

Mr. House questioned the boy alone, and the lad, who seemed bright and intelligent, said he and his mother watched the meetings take place from the vantage point of their boat moored just off shore. He said he didn't know what they talked about but that it was probably peace.

Discussion:

In comment on the above described incidents, we should first point out that the tall, English-speaking occupants

from a UFO who pick their contacts in some mysterious way, are almost god-like, speak of peace, are ahead of earthlings in technological prowess, will not allow pictures to be taken, or description of their instruments to be given, etc., are exact carbon copies of the type hailed by George Adamski as the elder brothers come to save us from ourselves.

This (the saving, that is) is a noble motive, to be sure, but we must point out that Adamski's contacts in the desert in 1952 took place one year after the Hollywood release of the movie, "The Day the Earth Stood Still." That movie starred British actor Michael Rennie as an idealistic inter-planetary traveler come to save earthlings from war and general evils. Mr. A's space contact (even one of the saucers he claimed he photographed that year) so closely resembled Klaatu and his craft in that movie that one is tempted to speculate.

There is one avenue of conjecture which has not been explored as a possible means of accounting for the many stories of contact—conservations concerning peace and man:

IF a race of beings meant to take over the world, would it not be efficient and logical to contact gullible (the opposite, incidentally, of "skeptical") peace-loving people, convince them of good intentions, limit their knowledge of anything which would benefit them technologically (such as instruments) and use them as a pipeline of information as well as a first step toward actual infiltration? The communists have perfected this technique and it is generally agreed they are not supermen. Could it be that some people have actually contacted real spacemen and are unknowing dupes and traitors to their own race?

This possibility is just as logical as Dr. Leon Davidson's premise that the whole UFO situation was devised and perpetuated by the U. S. CIA for the purpose of concealment of new weapons and confusing our enemies. Considering the miserable failure of the CIA in the Cuban invasion fiasco, the Davidson theory does not seem reasonable or intelligent. Davidson's theory does not account for hundreds of sighting dating back hundreds of years, nor does it account for the Director's first sighting in 1934, 13 years prior to the birth of the CIA. It would be more likely that CIA personnel would indoctrinate an individual such as Dr. Davidson who would serve to confuse an issue (the UFO problem) which has become embarrassing to officialdom.

In addition, whenever we hear of superintelligence and messianic compul-

sions, we should immediately become suspicious. Man, during recorded history, has been repeatedly offered formulas for saving himself from himself. One more opportunity would be of little significance. If the spacemen are so super-intelligent, why are they not cognizant of this simple historical and psychological fact?

Venezuelan Reports

By Horacio Gonzales

Although sightings of UFO's have reduced considerably since 1958, we have been receiving good sporadic reports from different parts of the interior up to two or three weeks ago (late September) when a brilliantly lighted object described as a huge "fireball" maneuvered over a boat with five fishermen in the southern part of Lake Maracaibo. The fishermen, frightened out of their wits threw themselves into the sea to swim to the shore. Four of them managed to reach the shore but the other one either drowned or disappeared mysteriously. The survivors declared that they had never seen anything remotely similar in all their years of fishing on the lake. Unconfirmed reports state that a similar object was seen the same night flying at a relatively low altitude over El Tigre almost at the same hour or a few minutes afterwards.

Another detailed report which I covered for the paper concerns an important sighting of November (1960) last year when almost the whole city of Caracas had the opportunity to observe a luminous object described as a "rocket," "a cigar," and "dirigible" cross majestically over the city at relatively low altitude. The object, everyone was sure, was some sort of manufactured vehicle; speed was that of a commercial plane; huge size; had two or three pulsating lights of a greenish color behind; made no sound; was illuminated in the front by an intense bluish luminosity; accelerated and changed direction when it reached the Avila mountain. Object was not a plane, neither was it a rocket or guided missile. The shape was plainly visible as it seemed to move within a luminiscent halo of a bluish green color. Hundreds of people saw the thing and the Caracas newspaper offices were flooded with calls from all parts of the city. Next day we learned that a similar object was also seen in different parts of the United States, Florida, Santo Domingo, Curacao, then in the frontier towns in the interior of Venezuela, over Merida, Coro, Cara-

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Venezuelan . . .

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cas, and across the sea coast towards Trinidad. All the Venezuelan reports agreed as to shape and luminosity and the accompanying balls of pulsating light behind, and the extreme bluish brilliance IN FRONT of the apparatus.

BURNED GRASS AT LANDING SITE

An unidentified flying object, ovoid shaped and aluminum colored flew silently over the rolling hills of Santa Teresa del Tuy, just 60 kilometers from the city of Caracas to land on a hillock near the site of earth-moving operations in the "Paraiso del Tuy" urbanization.

Seen by more than twenty people, including engineers, topographers and a police officer, the object flew in and out of the hills dodging trees and flying at low speed to stop in the air over a stretch of tall "gamelote" grass.

When first seen by the group of people, Dr. Rino del Negro leapt into his jeep and followed the flight path of the object among the hills and was just in time to see when it ducked behind a hillock which hid it temporarily from view. As he reached a bend in the road he saw the object just taking off to vanish again behind some hills further off in the distance. On reaching the site, great was his surprise to see that the tall gamelote grass was flattened towards the ground in a roughly circular area which measured about sixty feet in diameter.

The above incident took place about 10:00 a.m. on Monday, 22 May 1960, about the same time that three similar objects were seen traversing the same route the day before.

Mr. Vicario Dante, resident topographer and ex-lieutenant of the Italian Anti-aircraft Corp also saw the object and told me that it was neither a plane, helicopter, balloon, rocket or any other known flying machine. He also said that it seemed to be moving in a sort of white cloud with fuzzy edges. In my possession is 40 feet of 16mm film taken by Tiuna Films Company of the site and plainly shows the flattened gamelote grass in a circular area. Examination of the gamelote showed that the roots seemed to be burnt and the flattened grass was twisted round and round as though some force had twisted the grass first then flattened it towards the ground. The object did not touch the ground but was seen hovering over the grass which grows to a height of from five to six feet.

Slag From The Sky?

At about 12:15 a.m. on 21 July 1961, Albert Pietruszak Jr., 14, was preparing for bed. He chanced to glance out the bedroom window of his Thompsonville, Mass. home just in time to see a "greenish-white glow about three feet in diameter" drop into the adjacent field. An instant later he as well as his parents heard a hiss and thud as the object hit the ground. Albert took careful note of the landing place and went to bed. Going to the spot the next day he found that something had penetrated a three-foot thick over-hanging sand bank and then dug itself into solid earth to a depth of about three feet.

Beside the hole was a Canada Dry bottle with its neck missing. The earth surrounding the puncture was dry and powdery. Presumably the heat of the object had produced this condition for when it was dug up, approximately 17 hours after it had fallen, it was still hot. Additional indication of its heat was evidenced by the fact that the neck of the bottle, found in the ground below the object, had apparently been struck, sheared off, driven into the ground, melted and flattened. It fit nicely against the flattened lower end of the object.

As for the object itself, it was quite unimpressive. It had the appearance of furnace slag and local experts preferred to insist that was slag, choosing to ignore certain details which militate against this conclusion: Namely, that it fell from the sky, burning (or at least glowing) with a greenish-white flame. The local experts insisted that it hadn't really fallen (ignoring the evidence of heat and inertia), that it was probably something hauled in with a load of fill. The owner of the land, however, stated that no fill had ever been dumped on his property.

The Director of the Springfield Museum of Natural History states that it definitely is not of meteoric origin.

It has the appearance of having been broken from a larger sheet of the same rocklike substance. One side has the appearance of lava or black plastic sponge, merging into stratas of varicolored limestone-like material. The sample received at APRO Headquarters has the physical appearance of slag and smells like hot asphalt. What is it? What was it doing up in the air anyway? Charles Fort would have loved this one.

MEMBERS . . .

Please check your cards and receipts and renew!!

The New Guinea Sightings

By Rev. N. Cruttwell

PART II

III. 1959 "TILLEY LAMPS IN THE SKY"

After the satellite-like lights in the sky, nothing further was seen for four months, and I thought that was the end of the activity. But I was very wrong. That was only a preliminary overture. The curtain rang up with the appearance of lights in the sky, which were described by the witnesses over and over again as being like "Tilley Lamps." It should be explained that the Tilley Lamp is the most popular type of lamp in the Territory where there is no electric light. Nearly all Europeans and quite a few of the better off Papuans possess them. They burn kerosene under pressure, which vapourises to heat a mantle. They give out a brilliant white light equal to 300 candle power. They are visible at a great distance and appear as an indefinite white blob of light, often with a halation of rays, due to the brightness. One often sees them far out to sea on a canoe, where the native people use them to attract fish.

I. A Hovering "Tilley Lamp"

During Lent it is our custom to hold mid-week services in the village. My assistant Papuan priest, the Rev. Albert M. Ririka, and a teacher, Augustine Bokino, were returning from such a service on the evening of March 19, 1959. They were on the coastal track (we have no roads or vehicles) walking back to Menapi, and had about five miles to go. They had no watches, but the time was 'dusk,' i.e. about 6:45 p.m. They emerged from a piece of forest on to the sea shore, facing across Goodenough Bay.

They were amazed to see a brilliant white light hanging in the sky, apparently over the Owen Stanley Ranges on the other side of the Bay. I should explain that they were on the south side of the Cape Vogel Peninsula looking across to the mainland over about 20 miles of sea.

Augustine described it as 'like another moon in the sky, but smaller.' The real moon (which was 'half,' i.e. first quarter) was also in the sky in quite another direction. Father Albert described it as 'like a Tilley Lamp in the sky.' They both agreed it was a brilliant white light, much larger than a star.

They stood and gazed at it for a minute or two. They think it was stationary, though there is a slight disagreement on this point. If it moved, the movement was very slight.

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New Guinea . . .

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They then continued to walk along the track close to the sea, keeping the object in view for about ten minutes. Then they passed through another short section of forest, losing sight of it. When they emerged a few minutes later on to the beach, the light was no longer there. They did not see it again.

It was also seen by two other Papuans whose house is on the beach nearby. When Father Albert and Augustine returned to the Mission they immediately reported the sighting to me, and asked if I thought it was a satellite. I went down to the beach and looked out over the bay. There was of course nothing to be seen. I looked out on subsequent evenings in the direction they indicated, but there was nothing there, not even a bright star to account for it. It is true that Venus was in the sky, but nowhere near the direction of this object.

Many people are inclined to doubt the testimony of Papuan native witnesses, on the grounds that they are (a) uneducated (b) superstitious (c) inclined to say anything to please the European. This is most unfair. I have been in Papua for thirteen years, and speak four native dialects. Fr. Albert and Augustine are well educated men, trained at our Teachers' Training College, one an ordained priest, and their testimony is as valuable as that of any normal European.

Indeed it is likely to be more impartial as they have no preconceived notions about satellites or astronomical phenomena, let alone flying saucers. They simply report what they see, and their descriptions are vivid and precise, and I can see no reason for not accepting them as accurate. If they are accepted as witnesses in court, why should not their evidence be acceptable in an investigation such as this? Of course it is subject to the laws of corroboration, as is any other evidence.

2. Flying "Tilley Lamps"

On the evening of Good Friday, 27 March, many of the Students at S. Aidan's College near Dogura saw a light "like a Tilley Lamp" moving across the sky. The time was between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m., that is to say in daylight, though the sun would probably have set behind the hills.

It came from the sea, and moved over Dogura (our Head Station) from the direction of Cape Frere, and disappeared over the horizon in the direction of the Holy Name School (that is, south). This was reported to me in a letter from

the Principal of the College, the Rev. David Durie, D.D., Dip.Ed.

At some indefinite date about this time, a white light was seen by Mr. George Awui, an engineer, and several other Papuans, hovering over the sea in broad daylight off Dogura. It was 'like a star, but much brighter.' They watched it for five minutes, until it suddenly went out. It was high in the sky to the west. It is conceivable that they may have been looking at Venus.

However, at about the same time right over in Collingwood Bay, a party of mountain people from the Daga country were down at Midino on the coast, hunting for wallabies, which abound in the grass plains. They were probably sleeping in the open under the clear starry sky. One night they saw a very bright 'round white light, like a Tilley Lamp,' coming from the northwest. It passed right over them, 'very close and clear' and continued on a straight course to the southeast. It made no sound. They were very frightened, and my informant, named WAVINE, asked me if it was some new aircraft made by the white man. I said I did not know.

The sightings of objects 'like Tilley Lamps in the sky' continued. During April they were seen at Giwa, Dogura, Menapi Sariba near Samarai and even in the Conflicts and Sudest Islands. They were seen by Europeans and Papuans, from land and from ships. There seems little point in detailing all of them, as they are very similar. A white light, 'like a bright star,' or 'like a ship's light,' or like a 'Tilley Lamp,' travelling in a straight line across the sky, or in one case 'up and down?' They were regarded as quite commonplace after a few months. Many must have seen them without reporting them to me.

Were they meteors, satellites, or merely Venus? They could not have been aircraft, for no aircraft fly over the Territory at night, and none of them was ever accompanied by sound. Had these been the only sighting we might have dismissed them as explicable phenomena, misinterpreted: but soon the objects began to behave in a manner which suggested that they were intelligently guided.

3. "Tilley Lamp" 'on' a Mountain?

The scene now shifts to Boianai, later to become famous for the most amazing sighting of all. Boianai is a village on a small tongue of land made by the Mase River where it flows out of a deep gorge of the Owen Stanleys. It is on the south side of Goodenough Bay, some 20 miles across from Menapi. About 4 miles behind it the mountains

rise sheer to culminate in two peaks which overhang the gorge on either side, Mount Nuanua and Mount Pudi. They are about 4,000 feet high. Behind them rise ridge upon ridge up to Mount Simpson, nearly 10,000 feet, which caps the range.

Right on the beach is the Mission Station of All Saints, Boianai, with a coral cement Church and various Mission buildings. It faces northwards, the beach running northwest to southeast. It looks across to the low hills of Giwa and Menapi on the Cape Vogel Peninsula.

The missionary in charge, the Rev. William Booth Gill, is an old friend of mine. He came out to Papua with me in 1946, and I know him very well. On the 9th of April he was on his little 16 ft. launch about a mile off shore, coming home from visiting an outstation. It was 6:50 p.m., and just about dark. The weather was clear overhead, but there were clouds and rain squalls about. The mountains were a dark silhouette against the still glowing sky.

He suddenly noticed a bright white light 'like a Tilley Lamp,' apparently high up on the flank of Mt. Pudi, not far from the summit. He estimates that the light was about 500 feet from the top. It was quite stationary, and he immediately thought: "Oh, there must be someone up there with a Tilley lamp." The Papuans with him all noticed the light. He was puzzled about the light, but not unduly so, and looked away, continued to read his book. Five minutes later he looked up again, but the mountain was in darkness. The light had disappeared. This again seemed odd, but he took no notice, and went on reading. After another five minutes he was aware of the light again, shining out from the mountain side, but to his surprise it was shining from a completely new position on the opposite side of the mountain. It had moved quite a mile to the east, quite impossible, if a man had been carrying it.

However, Fr. Gill still did not realize the significance of what he had seen, and looked away again. Next time he looked back, the light had gone, and did not reappear. The next morning he examined the mountain by daylight, and realized that there was no house or village or even any track up there, but only the precipitous mountainside. It was not until he got a letter from me about the later sighting from Giwa that it occurred to him that it might have been an UFO.

As it was quite impossible for it to have been an actual Tilley Lamp for the reasons given above, in addition to (See *New Guinea*, page 7)

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the fact that very few people, apart from the Mission staff, possess Tilley Lamps anyway, it seems likely that it was another appearance of the objects 'like Tilley Lamps' which were being seen all over the place. If so, the object could not have been actually 'on' the mountain, but was probably hovering between the mountain and Fr. Gill's launch, a distance of three or four miles. As it 'appeared' at a height of 3500 feet, when seen against the mountain, its actual height could not have exceeded that altitude, but may have been considerably less. The object therefore could not have been astronomical, but appears to be some kind of craft hovering at aircraft height.

This sighting was therefore of great importance to us at the time, suggesting that some mysterious, apparently controlled, craft were flying about over Papua at night. This was amply confirmed by subsequent sightings.

4. A "Tilley Lamp" Which Turned On Its Tracks

Across the Bay from Boianai, but rather further in towards the head of the Bay, is a village called Giwa. It is about 12 miles along the Bay from Menapi in a westerly direction. Here there is a little Trade Store, run by Mr. D. L. Glover, an Australian Trader. His house is right on the beach facing across towards Boianai, which would not be more than a dozen or so miles across the water to the south.

On April 21 at about 7:00 p. m. Mr. Glover happened to look out of his front door and saw a bright white light in the southern sky over the mountain range across the Bay. It was apparently only a short distance above the mountains, and appeared just above a particularly sharp peak. When later he showed me the position, I realized that the peak was Mt. Pudi again, where Fr. Gill had seen the object on April 9.

Mr. Glover had thought at first that it was a ship's light, until he saw that it was in the sky. He describes it as 'like a Tilley Lamp as seen from a couple of hundred yards away.' It travelled slowly out from the mountains over the sea, on a course oblique to him, in an approximately north-easterly direction. As it drew closer it appeared higher, passing right across his field of view, until it appeared above a group of trees to the left of his house. (i.e. somewhere over the sea between Giwa and Baniara Island).

It then stopped, seemed to hover a moment and then reverse, travelling in exactly the opposite direction without

turning. It continued to travel back on exactly the same track by which it had come until it again appeared to be over Mt. Pudi, where he had first observed it. It then suddenly vanished, like an electric light switched out. He did not see it again.

Mr. Glover was convinced he had seen a "Flying Saucer." He admitted that he could see no shape, just a bright light, far brighter than any star. But what struck him, as it struck me when he told me the story, was the way in which it stopped and reversed without turning. No known aircraft could have done this, let alone a meteor. He estimates the speed to be roughly that of a slow aircraft. The whole duration of the sighting was between 5 and 10 minutes. He did not time it. This sighting, like Fr. Gill's, suggests a controlled craft of some sort, but certainly not a normal airplane.

So far all the lights seen had been 'like Tilley Lamps' or 'like stars,' but in May, the objects started to put on a display of colour, through the white lights continued to be seen as well. Some of the earlier sightings before 1959 had shown these colour changes, which seemed to be a definite characteristic of certain types of UFO.

IV. KALEIDOSCOPIC LIGHTS

The first report of coloured lights came from a group of Papuans who were not particularly reliable, and I was inclined to discount it. I was especially sceptical at the time, because there were several stars low down on the horizon which appeared to scintillate alternately with green, red and white light. But they were only pin-points, and did not move, and were obviously stars. So when some people at Menapi, right on my doorstep, claimed to have seen a moving light which changed colour from white to red and then green over and over again, I was not very convinced, though looking back on it, I am not inclined to accept their statement.

1. Changing Coloured Light over Baniara

On Sunday, May 24, no less a person than the Assistant District Officer, Mr. Ronald Orwin, and his Patrol Officer, Mr. Robert L. Smith, saw with their own eyes a most spectacular coloured object, which was visible for three quarters of an hour.

They were at the Government Station on Baniara Island in Goodenough Bay, about 4 miles from Menapi and 1 mile off shore. They had just had dinner and were sitting on the verandah outside the Residence. The weather was clear and the sky full of stars. The time was 7:00 p.m. They noticed a particularly bright bluish star high in the west-

ern sky. They thought at first that it was Venus, until they saw that it was moving slowly in a southwest direction. It slowly faded after a few minutes, until it went right out. Then almost immediately it appeared again, waxing with a bright green light. Mr. Smith noticed the extremely interesting point that the green light did not appear at exactly the same point where the blue light had been, but slightly lower, as if from a different position on the object. He could see no outline of any craft, but the sky was fairly dark. The green light did not last as long as the blue, but changed through a sort of intermediate 'mauve or orange colour' (his words) 'really indescribable' to a bright orange red. This only remained for a very short time, like a flash, and then went out. Then the original blue light faded on again. The whole cycle took perhaps three to four minutes, and was duration of the sighting. The object pursued a slow and erratic course in a repeated over and over again for the general southwest direction, and faded out in the end at a point over the mountains, somewhere in the neighborhood of Dogura (southeast). It ended with the red-orange flash. It did not reappear. The time of its disappearance was about 8:15 p.m. The object was observed with the naked eye only. It made no sound whatever.

This sighting was immediately reported by radio to higher authorities and was mentioned in the local press (with inaccuracies). Mr. Orwin and Mr. Smith are responsible trained officers, and men of great integrity, and one cannot doubt their detailed and accurate observation. The account set down is a combination of both their reports, with all the detail recorded from personal interviews. The object was also seen by Papuans on the Island, and by at least one person at Menapi. Had I been looking out in the right direction at the right time, I should have seen it from our Mission Station.

The colour changes add yet another inexplicable element to the observations, but it is remarkably consistent in many sightings, —the fundamental colours of white, red and green, or blue-green, seem to be quite characteristic. Aircraft may carry lights of these colours, but they do not slowly change colour from moment to moment, nor are they silent, nor do they ever appear at night in Papuan skies.

2. More Coloured Lights

The next sighting was reported from Sideia, again, the Roman Catholic Mission Station near Samarai. On a Satur-

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day in May, a large green elliptical object was seen by nine schoolboys. The object was crossing the northern sky moving northwest; it was much larger than a star and moved rapidly. No more detail is available.

However, during June I had to visit my mountain stations in the Daga Country. It seemed to me that a number of the objects had appeared from or disappeared over the mountains, and I was interested to know whether they had been seen by the mountain people. So I made discreet enquiries. The results were most interesting. The objects had indeed been seen, though more recently than the coastal reports.

On Tuesday, June 16, 16 mountain people, men, boys and girls, were camping out in the high mountain country, hunting for cuscus, tree kangaroos and rock wallabies. They were 6,000 feet up in a high valley called Dumura, on the south side of the range. At about 7 p.m. they saw a brilliant light 'like a Tilley Lamp' but yellow in colour. It lit up the whole countryside 'brighter than the moon—more like the sun.' It did not seem to be very high. It came from the southwest and travelled straight overhead until it disappeared in the northwest. It appeared to travel 'at the speed of a firefly.' This of course refers to apparent speed, not actual speed, which must have been far more rapid. A firefly, being only a few feet up, appears to travel far faster than a plane. After it disappeared they heard a single explosion, like a clap of thunder. The story was told to me by Baredi, an intelligent Pupil Teacher. He said that they were all very frightened by the light.

These mountain people are much less sophisticated than the coastal, but are often very intelligent. Their lack of sophistication makes them all the less likely to have invented these objects, which are obviously quite out of their normal experience, and of which they could not possibly have heard before. The stories were always told to me in the native language, which I know partly, but which was always explained to me by interpreters, who knew the coastal language in which I am fluent.

3. A Rotating Coloured Ball

On the very same night another party of hunters were encamped at a place called Maigwarip at about 7000 feet on a high mountainside. The time they give as 6:30 p.m., but one must remember that they have no watches, and the

times of their mountain sightings can only be regarded as approximate. They saw a dazzling flash like lightning, which blinded them for a moment. Then they saw an object moving in the sky from north to south. They describe it as 'like a cricket ball,' smaller than the moon, but much brighter. It started green, changed to white and later to red. The colour changes were slow and it remained for a long period at the one colour. It was dazzlingly bright, and lit up the whole countryside, and the top of the forest with its alternating, green, white and red light. It stayed 'a long time' in the sky and moved slowly. It appeared to rotate as it went (they indicated an anti-clockwise rotation, but I do not know if that was correct),—the rays of light which seemed to radiate from it rotating with the object.

The narrator of the sighting, Biri-budo, who was one of the eye-witnesses, said that they were all very frightened, but assumed that it must be one of the fantastic new inventions of the white man. It will be noticed that they never attributed them to magic or spirit phenomena. They seem convinced of their objective reality.

4. More Mountain Sightings

On the following night, June 17, another of our Pupil Teachers, Michael I. Bumomoi, and his friend AUNAK, were out hunting together on Mt. Manaman at about 8000 feet. At 8 p.m. it was cloudy and raining, and they were camping in a clearing of the forest, when they saw a bright light, partly red and partly white, shoot quickly across the sky. It appeared to be inside the clouds. They saw it receding through the trees, the branches silhouetted against it as it went.

Then a week later, another party of mountain people were high up on the side of Mt. Donam, getting pine bark for their Mission School building. There were 11 of them camping at about 8000 feet. It was a clear starry night, and they were sitting out at about 9 p.m. probably warming themselves round the fire in the extremely chilly air. Suddenly a very bright light 'like a Tilley lamp' came over the top of the mountain, a thousand feet above them, travelling approximately north to south. It had a long beam of light behind it 'like a torch.' The head of it was round 'like a tennis ball.' It lit up the whole place brilliantly as it sped 'faster than an airplane' over their heads. It was visible for some time as it receded, then it disappeared behind the trees, after which a single thunderclap was heard.

The eyewitness who told me, was a Village Counsellor, an intelligent fel-

low. He added: "I know the moon and the stars, and I know shooting stars. I am not a young man. I have been born many years. I have been looking at the sky all my life. But I have never seen anything like this before. You are a white man. Can you tell me what it is?"

I had to admit that the white men are just as puzzled as he is.

This is the end of my mountain reports, as I had to return to my Station at Menapi after a month's patrol. An interesting point about the mountain sightings is that they were all seen from very high altitudes and never from the gorges and valleys where the people live. The objects seem to have been skimming the high mountain tops and avoiding the valleys. However, the valleys are mostly deep and narrow, exposing a comparatively small area of sky to view. Also the mountain people tend to huddle inside their houses at night with the only door shut. So the chances of them seeing things in the sky except when camping are small.

In the two cases where a thunderclap was heard immediately after the disappearance of the object, there is no proof that the object was the cause of the bang. However, it seems reasonable to suppose that there is some connection. A similar thunderclap occurred after the sightings at Boianai, and a sound accompanied a later sighting at Giwa. These will be described in their place. With these four exceptions no sound whatever was heard during any of the sightings.

1. Father Gill's Letter

1. Father Gill's Letter

When I returned from the mountains I heard the most fantastic rumours. It was said that many flying saucers had been visiting Boianai, and that human being had been seen on them, and waved to Father Gill. I could not believe they were true, and dismissed them as the sort of wild tales which often get around by 'bush telegraph,' and in which there is often little or no substance of truth. However, the next call of the Mission launch brought me a fat envelope of typescript with a covering letter from Father Gill himself. His letter read as follows:

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Stricken Plane Disappears

On 19 July residents of Martinsburgh, W. Virginia reported seeing a "large" plane in trouble and losing altitude in the mountains along the upper Potomac. State police cars and private planes searched the area roughly halfway between Washington, D.C. and Pittsburgh, Pa., but found no evidence of a crash.